(c) whether the Government are incurring heavy losses on account of the activities of coal mafia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament to investigate the large scale bungling and irregularities in the coal distribution; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA GOUDA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), during the course of investigation of 7 cases registered by them in 1989 the payments of benami fixed deposit receipts involving an amount of Rs. 3.77 crores were stopped. Later on, an amount of Rs. 2.70 crores was released on the basis of the order dated 22.4.91 of Calcutta High Court. All the 7 cases are reportedly under investigation of the CBI.

(c) and (d) The activities of anti-social elements do affect the efficient and smooth functioning of the Coal Companies, but it is difficult to quantify the losses.

(e) and (f) There is at present no proposal to constitute such a committee. However, Coal Distribution policy of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is being reviewed by the Government.

[English]

Complaints of LPG Consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

3428. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LPG consumers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation have to wait for long periods for supply;

(b) whether numerous complaints have been received in this regard in recent years; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) 549 individual complaints have been received during the last two years and have been inquired into. LPG supply is subject to availability in the country, the availability of which varies from year to year.

Harnessing of Bio-Gas in Kerala

3429. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to harness bio-gas energy in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether subsidy is provided to small bio-gas plants in that State and is likely to continue to be given;

(d) whether bio-gas slurry is a good fertilizer; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to promote its use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of setting up of 2500 family type biogas plants have been fixed for the nodal department of the State Government of Kerala for 1991-92. Besides, Khadi and Village Industries Commission is also setting up biogas plants in the State.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Central subsidy for small size biogas plants is likely to be continued subject to availability of financial resources and periodic review.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. The steps taken for promotion of the use of slurry for manurial purposes include organisation of demonstrations in farmers' fields, training of beneficiaries, bringing out literature highlighting its benefits in regional languages, etc.

Air Service to Rajahmundry

3430. SHRI K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the Air services to Rajahmundry in view of heavy demand from the ONGC for oil exploration and for gas based industries located there; and